

# The Woman's Page of The Times-Dispatch

## Short, Smart and Snappy

From the book which it is the fad of the hour to read and talk about, the play that is on the boards at the theatre, the horse trot or the chicken trot or the last absurd caricature of the gentle art of dancing, the prime requisites are that every one shall be short, smart and snappy.

Otherwise, the book or the play or the dance may impinge too heavily upon time that has to be parcelled out among a thousand demands. Not more than a passing hour, or some fleeting moment can be given to any one thing. The same is not worth the candle. There is too much to see and to hear and to analyze. The game of modern life requires swift touches and quick balancing on the part of the players.

Have you read "Ten Thousand a Year, Nancy"? Your education will not be complete until you do, you know. "Then it remains unfinished," declared graceful Nancy. "I am quite sure I never intend to read anything so prosy and tiresome. When I take up a book, it must be written by an author who can say more on one page than the Dr. Dryasdust who compiled 'Ten Thousand a Year' does on one hundred. We young Americans have out-faced and out-classed that type of author. I can tell you."

As it is with the book, so it is with the play. An audience requires wit that will put them in delighted good humor and permit them to leave in time for a supper, or a dance, or an auto ride after the performance. No one thing holds the attention of society for more than the fleeting moment. Take the humming bird or the butterfly, society skims hither and thither on the wing, alighting but for a moment and then passing on. Two people now discussing a public speaker. "Why do you think he is so popular?" said one to the other. "I have thought it out carefully," said the other, "and I have come to the conclusion that he is so well liked, because he is so brief, because he always leaves off talking at a point when those to whom he addresses himself would be glad to hear more. Then he is clever and humorous. These are prime recommendations. I think brevity means much, but brevity must be supported. If it amounts to chaff, it is not worth the candle. American men and women can forgive anything rather than stupidity. 'Short and smart' go together, naturally, in a mind accustomed to the swift transitions in conversations, in environment, that the cosmopolitan make-up of society has brought about.

To be long drawn-out and prosy, to deal in reminiscences, to divert attention and interest from the eager, pulsing present that is not coming up to measure required, not being "snappy" in the smallest degree. "Well," exclaimed one young woman to another, as they met at a summer hotel in the Adirondacks. "What have you been doing since June? Having a brilliant time I suppose." "Not brilliant," was the answer. "I have been mostly hearing of anecdotes and great families and past glories. These are all very well in a way, but their intrusion into the present is a thing that is exceedingly tiresome. The present has established its type, therefore and defined its limitations. It has even carried its ideas into fashions, where skirts are short, hats are smart and shoes are snappy. The present is ever with us, and if we are wise, we will content us with it rather than lose the antagonisms of Time and Trouble saved."

The Memphis News-Semitar seems to be of the conviction that a woman and her personal history are soon parted, for it is responsible for the following story:

At one of the most fashionable family hotels in Memphis, a well-known woman walked out the other evening and was introduced by the landlady to a group of boarders sitting on the porch. Before an hour had passed she had said:

"I am a widow. My husband has been dead three years. He left me enough to live on with economy. I make my own shirtwaists and house gowns, and have my smart gowns made in Chicago. I have two children, and they are with their grandmother at Asheville for the summer. They are fairly good children, and will enter high school this fall. I am not musical and do not belong to any club. Judge or associate judge."

When she left the group, one of the women turned to her husband and said:

"What on earth did she tell us all that for?"

"Because she's smart," replied the husband. "That woman has hoarded before, and she knows just what a play of boarders want to know. She's told you all you can and out, to spare you the joke of talking it over among yourselves, and of surmising all sorts of things about her. Now you know the facts from headquarters."

"What the mean thing," said his wife. "We won't have a thing to talk about now until the next boarder comes."

**Melting Pot of Race Prejudice.**  
The melting pot of race prejudices and the true foundation of an international and world-wide sisterly understanding is the gown created by the modiste in which the well-gait is at work.

What woman, wearing a creation of Godefrid, inspired by Persia, can resist interest in that country's awakening? What woman, wearing a Chinese mandarin's cloak, richly embroidered, cannot sense the appreciation of color and fabric that a Chinese feels on wearing the same cloak?

A Russian blouse brings the air of the steppes into our American life; an Indian bracelet pledges a sympathy between the women of the land to which we look more and more for our practical spiritual need. The harem skirt must bring with it the vain, fostered longings of the shut-in women who are the dolls of men. Even the spoils of war have welded a link of understanding between enemies.

Since men made war one upon another the soldier has brought back from his victories to his womankind a rich cloak, a rich fabric, a jeweled clasp, a much-worn ring, a carved or wrought metal bracelet. As she wears it for his sake and feels of it and imagines who made it and for whom, love of her lover opens her eyes to the wounded heart of another whose lover was slain by her country's soldiers for her country's glory.



AFTERNOON COSTUMES: THE RETURN OF THE PLAIT AND FLOUNCE.

L'Art de la Mode.

## In the Matter of Footwear

Fashionable Frenchwomen are outdoing their American sisters in the matter of footwear. When the news that New York women had taken to wearing socks reached Paris, a movement was started to introduce the same custom in Paris, but without success. In the last week or two, however, a step even further in this direction was taken, and at fashionable seaside resorts it is now considered quite chic to walk about in sandals or low-cut shoes, with no other covering for the feet.

This innovation is highly approved by medical men in Paris, who think that by exposing the foot and part of the leg to the air, the physical system is much strengthened. Two physicians who have made a special study of the subject, Professor Raymond and Dr. Charlier, declare that 40 per cent of delicate girls can have their health restored by discarding stockings in summer.

**The Woman Who Learns to Sew.**  
The woman who learns to sew straw neatly can always have a stylish hat. She can buy a last season's hat for a few cents, rip the braid and reweave it in any of the correct shapes.

For cleaning jewelry there is nothing better than ammonia and water. If dull or dirty, rub a little soap on a soft brush and brush them in this wash. Rinse in cold water and polish with chamois.

Cover plaster statuary over with cold starch and set them in the wind-dry, but not in the sun, until they are dry, then brush off the starch with a dry, soft cloth. Do not use soap on them. In buying plaster figures it is best to select those of ivory finish, as they keep clean much longer and are more easily cleaned.

Excellent coat and shirtwaist hangers can be made by cutting the hoods from small barrels—those called half-barrels—in two. Wind folds of cambric or fancy material on these and fasten a strong loop in the middle from which to suspend. An advantage from which over many of the bought ones is that here there is no angle to crease the garments.

## THE NEED OF NEW CLOTHES

She had been feeling worse and worse for nearly a year, she was saying. "Things had been getting more and more mixed up," it wasn't surprising, it was just "strange." She didn't know what else to call it, she hoped the doctor would understand.

The doctor smiled, and then he spoke, cheerfully. "What you need," he pronounced, "is a new set of clothes."

"What you need is some new clothes?" she asked, looking at him. "Then she flushed a deep crimson and raised her hand awkwardly to her eyes, as if to hide them."

"What's that got to do with it?" she demanded. "I can't afford expensive clothes," she said, fully polling at the medical fingers of her shabby gloves.

"Clothes are not so expensive as a sanatorium," remarked the doctor. "Neither," he added, "are they so expensive as six months in Europe. And they'll do you quite as much good. What I want you to do is to get a new dress. You'd better throw away every old you have, and get a complete new outfit. Get frocks and earrings and smart shoes and a regular peach of a hat."

He was sitting at his desk, three weeks later, when the doctor and the woman came in. He bowed a little stiffly. This was a stranger. This was a little woman whose graceful plumpness gave her lack of health a certain pugnant charm.

"I believe," she said, "I really believe you don't know me."

"Then the doctor recognized her, but he admitted to himself that he really, too, had changed. It had lost its sparkling quality; it seemed to have gone back to a certain stiffness that it had lost."

dear! I know that they can thank you— you and the clothes!"—Mary Katherine Woods, in Dress.

**Stenographer's Point of View.**  
That most wonderful of home classics, "Little Women," has been dramatized. In Detroit, two stenographers from middle-class families went to see it. After the performance, they stopped in the lobby to discuss the play with a friend.

"Wasn't it a lovely little play?" asked the girl who works for a law firm.

"Yes," replied the other girl. "The Marches were terribly old-fashioned, but it was all so sweet, the way they clung to each other, as if the rest of the world didn't matter much. Families used to be like that—so charming."

"That was before we lived in New York," commented the lawyer's clerk, a trifle bitterly. "And when girls did not work eight hours a day in some stuffy office until they forgot they had any family."

She was wrong. Some women still make date bloom into real homes. Both Jo and Meg March worked, and their homes—once as governesses, the other as companion to a fault-finding invalid. But a wise, tender mother and a devoted, unselfish younger sister drew them home after the day's work and made them think that there was no better place so inviting, so pleasant, so diverting, as that to be found in the glow of their own fireside. The March girls know each other. That is why Louisa M. Alcott's book pictures the golden age of American home life.

In the modern home, boys and girls are so busy shipping grades, working after school hours, studying for this, that and the other thing, and "getting there," that they have no time to find out what other members of the family are doing. Nor do they really care. Perhaps sometime after they have graduated or are making money,

they'll pay off the mortgage, help mother and father and enjoy the old home, but by that time, too often, they have learned not to care. They drift so far apart in the process of "arriving" that they never get together again.—Historical Review.

**Cold Berry Pudding.**  
Buttered, stale bread, rich, sweet cream or frosting, one quart of berries (blackberries or blackberries preferred).

Stew the berries for a few minutes, with just enough water to cover, and when soft, remove from the fire. Arrange part of the buttered bread, which has been cut in rather thin slices, at the bottom of a deep buttered pudding dish and pour over it a layer of the hot stewed berries. Cover with a layer of the bread, then another of berries and so on until the dish is full, ending with a covering of berries. Allow to cool, and serve with rich, thick cream and sugar. If desired, a soft frosting may be put over the top layer of berries.

**Conserve of Fruit.**  
One quart of ripe gooseberries, cold water to cover, one cupful of sugar, one tablespoonful of melted butter, three eggs.

Remove the tops and tails from the berries and cook with just enough water to cover them. When soft, press through a sieve to remove the seeds and the seeds and while still hot add the sugar and melted butter. Add also the beaten yolks of three eggs and whip the whole together until light. Pour into a large glass dish and when cold set on ice to set thoroughly. Before serving, spread on top of the liquid the egg whites, which have been beaten stiffly with three tablespoonfuls of sugar. Serve in small glasses.

Go over all the flowers frequently, clipping off all seed vessels. This will start the flowers to blooming again, providing, not too many seeds have matured. Seeds take vitality from the plant, and if the seed vessels are removed, more flowers will come to form. In this way many flowers can often be made to continue to bloom when normally they would bloom only once during the season.

## New Fuchsia Shade On Fall Hats

In regard to colorings, the new fuchsia shade that one sees a great deal of seems to run through many of the materials and trimmings used for fall hats. A renewal of the "Jaque de Rocher" or burnt orange shade to red, and while white and black, with white trimmings, plus lace to come in for a large share of popularity, the brighter colors of fuchsia and amber, which are worthy of particular attention, along with coral blue and brown, with touches of gold, all appear to vie with one another for first place. The time has come when the selection of purchase may use that which is becoming and still have a large selection from which to choose any number of hats.

## OSTRICH FEATHERS AND THEIR APPLICATION

Ostrich feathers are strikingly novel. They are used as tall trimmings and for hat applications. Bandoes, of which the standing plumes attached are made, are beautiful. The colors of tail plumes of tips and of plumes and of combinations of feathers are of several shades and made to look like a variety of things. The new shades of tail effects are made of many varieties of fancy plumes, and which are of great value. They are used in many ways, and many other materials are made into attractive high trimmings. Wings from the ostrich are very large and are extensively used of the smaller sizes, the ostrich to produce light.

Bandoes of feathers come from one inch to 24 inches, some even wider, and are often combined with wings of some color effect. Butterfly crest decorations are made in many fancy feather materials. Tail effects are made of quite a variety of sizes in fancy shapes and new colorings.

The early hydrangea makes an excellent hedge plant, which also gives an immense wealth of bloom from late summer till frost. Set the young tree in fertile soil, work manure into the surface soil every summer through cultivation, and keep the hedge trimmed to about four feet high. Strong shoots which grow five or six feet long are produced at the top each year, and at the ends of these shoots large flower clusters are formed, which at first turn to red and purple as the season advances.

## Women's Health and Well Being

Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont, who conducts the new department of hygiene in dress, has given much attention to problems which affect the health and well-being of women. In magazine the subject of food values is treated.

There are many kinds of indigestion, says the writer, but fortunately the majority of women who have indigestion have a comparatively simple form, and one which they can go far toward curing if they exercise a little caution and common sense.

Every one who has indigestion desires to have it—even those who suffer from nervous indigestion—but I am inclined to sympathize with those women, for so often it is trouble and worry really beyond their control which bring it on. But for the girl who gorges herself between meals, the woman who eats things which experience has taught her disagrees with her, the woman who swallows her food without chewing—then those women deserve the muddy skin and the dull eyes with which an indignant nature punishes them.

Do you realize that your indigestion can come from overeating and under-eating? The girl who hurries away from the breakfast table with only a bite because she is late going to work will put her stomach out of order just as surely as the woman who eats until she is in misery until she gets home and "makes herself comfortable." Never eat until you are satisfied and never miss a meal unless you feel an actual disinclination for food.

More "Flour" Than Last Year.  
Dresses will be more "flour" this year than they were last year, with the exception of tailor-made, which will continue to have the light skirt, so becoming and so convenient for street wear. But it is a fact that evening gowns will be much fuller at the hem, with beautiful draperies and exquisite trimmings of pearls and diamonds.

Sleeves will be long for day wear, but even here individual taste counts for so much. One thing is certain, the waist line, after many wanderings, has returned to its normal place. It will be seen that flowers will enter largely into evening dresses. Veilings will not fail to be greatly worn by those women who love soft effects.

Thus far the painter as we moderns have conceived it, is likely to remain with us—for as long as most styles do.

## AT THE THEATRE AND IN THE DRAWING ROOM

At the theatre, if the seats are next the aisle, it is proper for the gentleman to take the end seat, allowing the lady to be seated first.

Although it is not obligatory to call upon the guest visiting a friend, it is a polite and delicate attention and one appreciated by both.

Cultivate the habit of saying pleasant things; you can do this without being insincere. If you look for it there is something good in every one.

A formal call should be of at least ten or fifteen minutes' duration, but not over half an hour, unless you would have your hostess "twice speed her guest."

If unable to attend a reception given in honor of some one, send or mail your cards to whomsoever issues the invitations on the afternoon of the reception.

A written invitation to an entertainment of any kind requires a written answer. The answer should be written in the same person and with the same degree of formality with which the invitation is worded.

Whatever of household linen is provided or given a bride before her marriage is marked with her maiden name. The single initial of the surname may be used or the initial of the Christian name may be combined with it.

The old question of which should precede down the aisle of the theatre or church may be solved in the following way: If there is an usher let the lady proceed, if not, the gentleman goes first in order to select the seat.

**Fancy Feathers on Fall Hats.**  
There is no end to fancy feathers shown for fall, in a wonderful arrangement of color and designs. Numerous and various are used on many of the smart fall hats, most of these being placed directly in the front of the hat and giving the required height. A profusion of wings is another feature that we hail with delight, as it is a well-known fact that a smarter or more excellent trimming for both tall and low hats is one which is placed there. Since there are so many substitutes for the ostrich, which is prohibited in some sections, yet largely used in others, and which is used so extensively on the other side, will not be keenly felt in the prohibited territory, as any of the aforementioned materials easily fall the rank of a peculiar feature, and one which we are pleased to note, is the fact that this season imports are entirely free from any accretions of shape or trimming.

**The Picnic Boot.**  
Paris calling customs now have small trains. The wraps worn by the visiting have assumed a great importance and are extremely costly.

The newest fall in footwear is the "Peking" boot made of rare leathers and in thin stripes. Skins, skunk and opossum are in favor with women of ultra taste.

Slippers and house shoes must match the costume with which they are worn. Where slippers are introduced, the ornamentation extends to the heel. Among the changeable silks are novelties in taffetas shot with four colors and aureas in six tones.

Favorite combinations for evening gowns are pale blue cotton over dark-colored tulle, rose tulle and old lace and apple green and flesh-colored taffeta.

Serviceable gowns of pompadour silk, black satin and crepe meter are indispensable for the summer wardrobe. This season they vary in style from severe tailormades to elaborate costumes.—Dress.

**For Decorative Purposes.**  
For decorative purposes, cut roses early in the morning while the stems and foliage are full of sap and water, and then cut them into a deep vessel of cold water to be held in a cool place till needed for decoration. Roses, and almost all flowers, will last much longer if they are kept out of the sun and from circulating air.